

October, 2009

Title I Reservation Funds for Homeless Students

Children and youth who are in homeless situations are automatically eligible for Title I services. Title I **must** reserve funds for students experiencing homelessness if they attend nonparticipating schools.

Sec-1113 Eligible School Attendance Areas

(c) Allocations-

"(3) RESERVATION- A local educational agency shall reserve such funds as are necessary under this part to provide services comparable to those provided to children in schools funded under this part to serve-

(A) homeless children who do not attend participating schools, including providing educationally related support services to children in shelters and other locations where children may live..."

(Emphasis added)

Staff Partnerships

Following the district's official identification and enrollment of children from families lacking fixed, regular or adequate housing, the homeless liaison and Title I coordinator should jointly determine the anticipated services and funds required to meet the academic needs of these students. Consideration should be given to the financial and other supportive resources available from the community, district, McKinney-Vento, and Title I when planning to address the unique needs of these children. It is important that this joint planning take place prior to the start of the school year, and include both previously identified and newly identified students who may enroll at any time throughout the school year.

Staff members involved in this planning should keep in mind that a homeless student is defined as an individual who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate night-time residence. This includes children and youth who:

- are "doubled-up"; sharing housing due to economic hardship (grandparent, relative, friend);
- live in domestic abuse shelters, emergency shelters, or transitional housing;
- teens who "couch surf"; temporarily staying at different friend's homes;
- are runaway youth;
- live in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds;
- are waiting foster care placement;
- live in cars, parks, public spaces, substandard housing, abandoned buildings; and
- migrant children who qualify as homeless because they live in the above circumstances.

Title I Coordinators and homeless liaisons need to consider the above student living arrangements when making decisions about academic needs and support, and use of the Title I reserved allocation or other district and community resources. Districts always have the option to reallocate unused funds reserved for this purpose to support other Title I program functions.

Minimal Obligations

Homeless students should be assisted if they need additional academic support services not covered in regular district or Title I programs, wherever the student is attending school.

Additional support services might include:

- participation in –before and –after school programs,
- purchase of supplementary instructional materials such as homework tools and calculators,
- translation services,
- transportation to educational programs that is not normally provided by the district,
- transportation services to allow a parent to attend school functions, and
- assistance with excess transportation costs to the school of origin, at the district's discretion, for the remainder of the academic year once a formerly homeless student becomes permanently housed.

Other Considerations

Whether Title I or other district funds are used, the following services are required to be provided by your district under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act (Title X, No Child Left Behind):

- school supplies,
- course fee waivers,
- free school meals, and
- transportation to the school of origin (NOT paid by Title I while homeless).

Reservation Formula

Through the consolidated grant application process, a district must plan for provisions of Title I services to homeless students in participating schools and reserve Title I funds to serve homeless students in a comparable manner, if any are attending non-Title I schools. The average per pupil amount allocated for formula poverty children in the district's eligible schools, multiplied by the number of homeless children to be served in non-Title I schools, will yield the minimum reservation amount for those students attending non-Title I schools. For additional information about Title I, please contact Myrna Toney, Title I Program Coordinator, at myrna.toney@dpi.wi.gov, or (608) 266-2690.

Homeless Information

Please see <http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/homeless/index.html> for the legislative requirements of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act, the definition of who is considered homeless under the Act, transportation requirements, "Free Meals," and "Ten Strategies to Serve the Homeless." For additional information about homeless issues, please contact Mary Maronek, Coordinator of the Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Program, at mary.maronek@dpi.wi.gov or (608)261-6322.

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